

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TGEN, YO

SUBJECT: NSF COOPERATION IN S&T WITH YUGOSLAVIA

REF: BELGRADE 566

1. DEPARTMENT AND SOME USG AGENCIES INVOLVED IN US-YUGOSLAV S&T COOPERATION HAVE REVIEWED EMBASSY ANALYSIS (REFTEL) -- PROBLEMS--BOTH REAL ONES AND THOSE IMAGINED BY YUGOSLAV SIDE--AND APPRECIATE EFFORT TO FLAG THEM TO OUR ATTENTION. CONSENSUS WHICH EMERGED FROM DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EUR/EE AND OES IS THAT THE SIX PROBLEM AREAS ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED AND THAT APPROACHES TO EACH SHOULD BE HANDLED INDEPENDENTLY. WE UNDERSTAND EMBASSY'S POINT THAT, EVEN IF UNRELATED, THESE PROBLEMS HAVE ASSUMED IN YUGOSLAV EYES A SIGNIFICANCE SUGGESTING DIMINISHED USG
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INTEREST IN JOINT COOPERATION, BUT WE BELIEVE THE PICTURE PAINTED BY REFTEL IS UNDULY PESSIMISTIC. WE WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS WITH SCIATT BEFORE JOINT BOARD MEETING.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, NSF FORWARDS THE FOLLOWING REMARKS TO CLARIFY ITS POSITION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACADEMY (NAS)

PROGRAM IN JOINT RESEARCH AND ON FINANCING COOPERATIVE

RESEARCH THROUGH THE JOINT FUND, MENTIONED AS TWO OF SIX
S&T PROBLEMS IN REFTEL.

3. AS REGARDS THE NAS INITIATIVE IN YUGOSLAVIA, NAS STAFF
WERE CAUTIONED BY NSF NOT TO PROCEED, BUT CONTINUED
NEGOTIATIONS WITH COUNCIL OF YUGOSLAV ACADEMIES.

4. POLICY CONCERNING THE USE OF NSF FUNDS AWARDED TO NAS
WAS SET BY NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD (NSB), THE POLICY-MAKING
BODY OF THE NSF, WHICH IS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT,
BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE. ON
NOVEMBER 20-21, 1975, AND AGAIN ON AUGUST 20, 1976, NSB
APPROVAL OF NSF AWARDS FOR EAST EUROPEAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM
EXPRESSLY INCLUDED THE PROVISION THAT "FUNDS ARE NOT TO
BE USED FOR THE INITIAL FUNDING OF NEW COLLABORATIVE
RESEARCH PROJECTS OR THEIR ASSOCIATED COSTS; THESE FUNDS
ARE TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE EXCHANGE
PROGRAM AS PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED." NSB FEELS THAT
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH SHOULD BE FUNDED BY NSF VIA EXISTING
BILATERALS AND NOT THROUGH COMPETING ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY
NAS.

5. FINANCING THROUGH THE JOINT FUND WILL CONTINUE ONLY SO
LONG AS NSF SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY AND YUGOSLAV MATCHING
FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. TOTAL FUNDS IN JOINT FUND WILL
AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY 1.25 MILLION DOLLAR EQUIVALENT
WHEN FUNDS FROM QEE PROJECT ARE RECOVERED. THESE FUNDS
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ARE EXPECTED TO BE USED DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

6. COOPERATION IN S&T BEYOND THAT PERIOD WILL FOLLOW SAME
PATTERN AS DEVELOPED FOR SOME 21 OTHER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS
AND SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED BY NSF. NSF APPROPRIATED
FUNDS WILL BE AWARDED DIRECTLY TO U.S. COOPERATING INSTI-
TUTIONS; COOPERATING YUGOSLAV INSTITUTIONS WILL HAVE TO
SECURE FUNDS FROM THEIR OWN SOURCES. THE JOINT BOARD FUND
MECHANISM WILL NOT BE USED FOR DOLLAR FUNDED NSF COOPERA-
TIVE ACTIVITIES. COOPERATION ON AN APPROXIMATELY EQUAL
COST SHARING BASIS, WILL FOCUS ON (A) JOINT RESEARCH,
(B) JOINTLY PREPARED SEMINARS, AND (C) SCIENTIFIC VISITS
FOR PURPOSES OF CONSULTING AND PLANNING ACTIVITIES UNDER
(A) AND (B).

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